

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 6, and 7 were rejected as indefinite. This rejection is believed overcome by reciting an electric motor in claim 11 and changing the dependency of claims 4, 6, and 7. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's careful reading of the claims.

Claims 11, 4 and 6 were rejected as anticipated by Peterson, Jr. et al. ("Peterson"). Claim 11 recites a minivan. The Peterson patent discloses a bus. Claim 11 recites a folding ramp that folds in half, approximately. The Peterson patent discloses a flip-over ramp, wherein a one-piece ramp flips over one end to extend or retract. Claim 11 recites that the arms extend underneath the hinge. Clearly, there is no anticipation.

Claim 2 was rejected as unpatentable over Peterson in view of Vartanian. The Vartanian patent discloses a platform lift having a rotating platform. A platform lift is different in kind from a ramp. There is no basis for the combination but applicants' claims. There is certainly no suggestion for the combination in the prior art itself; *In re Rouffet*, 47 USPQ2d 1453, at 1457 (Fed. Cir. 1998). Further, the disclosure of the Vartanian patent overcomes none of the deficiencies noted in the disclosure of the Peterson patent.

Claims 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 were rejected as unpatentable over Peterson in view of Roth-Stielow et al. The Roth-Stielow et al. patent is cited to show dynamic braking. Applicants have already gone on record as saying that the principle of dynamic braking is known in the art. The broad combination of dynamic braking and a folding ramp is novel and unobvious. The combination enables a compactness and safety not previously obtainable as easily. It is respectfully submitted that there is no basis in the prior art for the combination proposed by the Examiner; *In re Rouffet*, 47 USPQ2d 1453, at 1457 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 11, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 are in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul F. Wille".

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